



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

January 15, 2010

Mr. Brad Mehaffy, NEPA Compliance Officer
National Indian Gaming Commission
1441 L Street N.W., Suite 9100
Washington, DC 20005
Fax: (202) 632-7066

Dear Mr. Mehaffy:

On behalf of the Chickasaw Nation, I request the National Indian Gaming Commission to extend the comment period for the Draft National Environmental Policy Act Manual, published in the Federal Register on December 4, 2009. We recognize the importance of this document which presents a number of issues, including questions of law and policy, that require considerable research and analysis not possible within the timeframe allowed for comment. We urge an extension of at least another 60 days in so that we may coordinate the preparation of our comments internally because of the number of the Chickasaw Nation's governmental departments, divisions, and sub-components that must be engaged in the effort.

The material in the draft manual is highly dense and implicates important issues and questions of law and policy. Preparation of our comments requires both considerable legal research and an internal coordination effort involving numerous components of our government. Given the timing of the publication of the notice of public comment on December 18, 2009, we find a 45-day comment period to be unreasonable for a matter of this significance. In effect, the time of the notice represents a much shorter period than 45 days, which is why we are seeking an extension.

Your consideration of our request for an extension of the comment period will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Anoatubby
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

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